

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 26.07.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF LIONS TIGERS ETC. .**

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Dr. Janardhan Waghmare

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the number of lions, leopards, panthers and tigers in the country; and
- (b) what steps are being taken to protect/ preserve those species and to increase their progeny?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) The Present population of Asiatic Lion in the country is 359(+10) as per the estimation carried out in April 2005. Estimated number of tigers in the country is 1411. The details of the tiger population are at Annexure. The details of the population of leopards and panthers are not collated at the Ministry.

(b) Measures taken by the Government to protect the wildlife of the country are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are listed in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
2. Financial and technical assistance is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of `Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats`, `Project Tiger` and `Project Elephant` for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.
3. Legal protection has been provided to endangered wild animals and plants against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
4. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
5. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve and protect wildlife and their habitats.
6. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.